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House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOMACK).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 8, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE WOMACK to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JONES. Mr. Speaker, shortly before the July Fourth break, we had three marines from Camp Lejeune, which is in my district, who were killed during combat operations in Afghanistan: Staff Sergeant David H. Stewart, Lance Corporal Brandon J. Garabrant, and Lance Corporal Adam F. Wolff. May I, at this time, extend my deepest sympathy to the families of these three brave marines.

Mr. Speaker, recently much attention has been given to the chaos building in Iraq. However, we must not forget that there is still chaos in Afghanistan.

In June of this year, I visited Walter Reed Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. I met three soldiers from Fort Bragg who had lost one leg each in Afghanistan. I met two marines from my district at Camp Lejeune.

One marine, 23 years old, had lost two legs and an arm. His father, from Louisiana, was standing beside his exercise mat, which is about 3 or 4 feet off the ground. To look in the eyes of the father, to see the pain, the sadness, and the worry about the future of his 23-year-old son, I cannot describe today on the floor of the House. I don't know the words to describe the pain I saw in the eyes.

Then I went to see the second marine from Camp Lejeune, who in February of this year stepped on a 40-pound IED and lost both legs. I could only look at him and hope for the best as he told me about his wife and his 8-month-old baby girl.

Mr. Speaker, beside me today, I have the photograph on this poster of two young ladies whose father was Sergeant Kevin Balduf, stationed at Camp Lejeune. The little girls' names are Eden and Stephanie. They are standing at the grave site of their father.

Sergeant Balduf and Colonel Palmer—Sergeant Balduf, again, was stationed at Camp Lejeune and Colonel Palmer at Air Station Cherry Point, which is also in my district in eastern North Carolina—were sent to Afghanistan to train Afghans to be police officers. The night before Sergeant Balduf and Colonel Palmer were killed, Sergeant Balduf emailed his wife, Amy, and said, "I don't trust them. I don't trust them. I don't trust any of them." The next day, he and Colonel Palmer were shot and killed by the Afghans they were trying to train.

Mr. Speaker, Afghanistan is not worth the treasure or the blood that has been spent there over the last 12 years. We have no more business thinking we can change the Middle East, because history has proven Afghanistan and Iraq will never change, no matter what. Iraq was an unnecessary war. It was manufactured intelligence by the previous administration. It was an unnecessary, unjust war where 4,000 Americans were killed, 30,000 were wounded, and 100,000 Iraqis were killed themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I will close today by quoting a man for whom I have great respect, because he and I agree on our foreign policies. His name is Pat Buchanan:

Is it not a symptom of senility to be borrowing from the world so we can defend the world?

We in Congress continue to spend money over in Afghanistan—and now Iraq—from money that we borrow from other countries. It makes no sense.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I say to Stephanie and Eden: Your father was a hero. He will never be forgotten.

I will say to all the families and the children of those who lost loved ones: Your loved ones will never be forgotten. They have done so much for this country.

May God continue to bless America and may God continue to bless those in uniform, and may God continue to bless America.

CRISIS AT THE BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, according to a Federal judge in Texas, our government is "completing the criminal mission" of human traffickers "who are violating the border security of the United States" and assisting a "criminal conspiracy in achieving its illegal goals."

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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